

35. (Amended) The article as recited in claims 17 further comprising a combined canister in which is located at least one of the close coupled catalyst and at least one downstream catalyst downstream of the close coupled catalyst.

36. (Amended) The article as recited in claims 17 or 35 wherein the at least one downstream catalyst is a three way catalyst.

39. (Amended) The article as recited in claims 17 wherein the amount of the at least one close coupled catalyst is less than the amount of the at least one downstream catalyst.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above referenced application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Amendments

Claims 1 and 20 have been amended to be directed to specific embodiments of the present invention. Basis for various of the amendments is in the specification at page 9, lines 21-28, page 12, lines 6-7 and page 28, line 25, and claims 30 and 43 (which has been cancelled). Additionally, amendment has been made to the dependency of claims 31, 33-36 and 39.

For the above reasons, entry of the proposed amendments to the claims 1, 20, 31, 33-36 and 39 is respectfully requested.

Terminal Disclaimer

Applicants note the review acceptance and recording of the Terminal Disclaimer, and appreciate the withdrawal of the rejection

based on obviousness-type double patenting over claims in U.S. Patent No. 6,044,644; and claims in U.S. Patent No. 6,254,842.

The Rejection

35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 4-7, 9, 10, 17-27, and 34-43 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,171,556 to Burk et al. (Burk). Claims 18, 19 and 41-43 have been cancelled.

Independent claims 1 and 20 and claims 4-7, 9, 10, 17, 20-27 and 34-40 depending directly or indirectly therefrom have been amended to incorporate limitations of claims 30 and 41 and are therefore no longer anticipated by Burk.

35 USC § 103

Claims 8, 11-16 and 28-33 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Burk in view of U.S. Patent 5,597,771 to Hu et al. (Hu).

Claims 8, 11-16 and 28-33 are dependent directly or indirectly from claim 1 which has been amended to include the limitations of both claims 30 and claim 41 (both cancelled). The latter claim has not been rejected as obvious. Accordingly, claims 8, 11-16 and 28-33 are not obvious over Burk in view of Hu.


For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request
reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC § 102 and 35 USC § 103 and allowance of claims 1-17, 20-28, 31 and 33-43 is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner disagrees or believes that for any other reason direct contact with applicants' attorney would advance the prosecution of this application

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to finality, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at
the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Exhibit A

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
IN THE CLAIMS BY THIS AMENDMENT:

1. (Twice Amended) An article comprising:
a gasoline engine having an exhaust outlet or an exhaust gas manifold outlet; and
a close coupled catalyst located less than about one foot from the engine and in communication with the exhaust outlet or an exhaust gas manifold outlet to be exposed to temperatures up to at least 920°C,
the close coupled catalyst comprising a close coupled catalyst composition having substantially no oxygen storage components, the catalyst composition comprising:
a support;
a palladium component;
optionally, at least one alkaline metal oxide selected from the group consisting of strontium oxide, calcium oxide and barium oxide;
optionally, at least one platinum group metal component selected from the group consisting of platinum, rhodium, ruthenium and iridium components; and
optionally, at least one rare earth oxide selected from the group consisting of neodymium oxide and lanthanum oxide.

20. (Twice Amended) A method comprising the steps of:
operating a gasoline engine, having an exhaust gas outlet or an exhaust gas manifold outlet;
passing an exhaust gas stream comprising carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons, and optionally nitrogen oxide, from the exhaust gas outlet or an exhaust gas manifold outlet of the gasoline engine to a

close coupled catalyst, located less than about one foot from the engine and in communication with the exhaust outlet or an exhaust gas manifold outlet to be exposed to temperatures up to at least 920°C, the close coupled catalyst comprising a close coupled catalyst composition;

contacting the exhaust gas with the close coupled catalyst composition, the close coupled catalyst composition having substantially no oxygen storage components, the catalyst composition comprising:

a support;

a palladium component;

optionally, at least one alkaline metal oxide selected from the group consisting of strontium oxide, calcium oxide and barium oxide;

optionally, at least one platinum group metal component selected from the group consisting of platinum, rhodium, ruthenium and iridium components; and

optionally, at least one rare earth oxide selected from the group consisting of neodymium oxide and lanthanum oxide; and

oxidizing at least some of the hydrocarbon and only a portion carbon monoxide in the presence of the close coupled catalyst.

31. (Amended) The article as recited in claim 1 ~~or 19~~ wherein the close coupled catalyst composition is thermally stable upon exposure to temperatures up to 1100°C.

33. (Amended) The article as recited in claims 1 ~~or 19~~ wherein the close coupled catalyst composition further comprises at least one alkaline metal oxide selected from the group consisting of strontium oxide, calcium oxide and barium oxide.

34. (Amended) The article as recited in claims 1 ~~or 19~~ further comprising at least one platinum group metal component selected from platinum, rhodium, ruthenium and iridium components.

35. (Amended) The article as recited in claims 17 ~~or 19~~ further comprising a combined canister in which is located at least one of the close coupled catalyst and at least one downstream catalyst downstream of the close coupled catalyst.

36. (Amended) The article as recited in claims 17 or 35 wherein the at least one downstream catalyst is a three way catalyst.

39. (Amended) The article as recited in claims 17 ~~or 19~~ wherein the amount of the at least one close coupled catalyst is less than the amount of the at least one downstream catalyst.
